

## NEBRASKA PRAIRIE MUSEUM'S

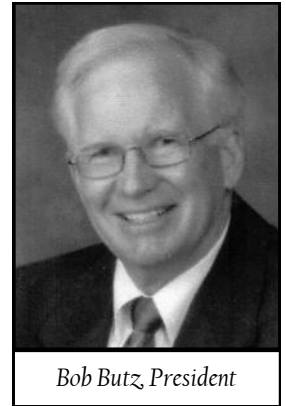
### UPCOMING EVENTS :

- **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017, 7:00 P.M.** — ALL ABOARD FOR THE PLANNING MEETING FOR OUR NEW MODEL TRAIN DISPLAY! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL ASPECTS OF BUILDING AND RUNNING THE TRAINS!
- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017 9:00 TO 11:00 A.M.** — HOLDREGE COFFEE A.M. ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM HONORING LOCAL VETERANS FREE BREAKFAST. PUBLIC WELCOME!
- **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M.** — PCHS QUARTERLY PROGRAM BY SANDRA SLATER
- **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017, 12:00 NOON** — VOLUNTEER/ MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCH
- **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017— GIVE2GROW**  
NEW WEBSITE THIS YEAR!  
SEE GIVE2GROW DETAILS INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER.
- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017—**  
JAN WEICH'S BETHEL BELLES, WILL PERFORM THEIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tired of sitting at home?  
Would you like to help make a  
difference? Volunteer at the  
Nebraska Prairie Museum.  
You'll have a great time!

## From The President

The Phelps County Historical Society board of directors is different from most nonprofit boards, in that we own two quarters of agricultural land that we choose to manage ourselves. The income we derive from these quarters is one of our most important source of revenue. Without it we would not be able stay open seven days a week, nor have the wonderful staff to keep the museum looking and functioning at the high level it does.



*Bob Butz, President*

At times we have had board members, myself included at one ignorant point in time, who believed it would be better to sell the land and use the money as part of our endowment. There also have been board members who believed we should hire a farm management company. I don't want to imply there is dissention on the board, because this is not the situation.

The Anderson farm land is in fact, a large part of our endowment, the value fluctuates as ag land prices vary, but in general, continues to increase. The income also fluctuates as the ag economy changes, but has generally increased through the years. Continuing to own and manage the farm land has proven to be a very good decision.

The makeup of our board allows us to own and manage farm land. We have three members who are actively involved in production agriculture, two wives whose husbands are involved in production agriculture, and the director of a NRD. The experience and willingness of these volunteers to make the important and sometimes tough decisions necessary for farm management, allows us to continue to be successful in this endeavor.

Our board does not have term limits, and the willingness of many members to serve multiple three year terms also allows for the continuity needed to manage our farm land. Ours is truly a working board.

The board, at the recommendation of the farm committee, has decided to seek a new lease agreement. We have had a very good tenant, and he and any other Phelps county ag producer had a chance to register at the museum, and pick up an application to bring a proposal to the board on how they would propose to farm our land. We are hoping to get some innovative rental ideas, and other incentives. We are interested in the length of a lease, and are even open to the possibility of a tenant putting a pivot on our quarter that presently doesn't have one. We of course want to earn as much income for the operation of the museum as we can, and we want to be fair.

The proposals are due by the end of November.

## Unusual Phelps County Connections

By Patti Simpson

What does a Congressional Medal of Honor WWII hero, Playboy magazine founder, Hugh Hefner, and the famous French painter, Claude Monet have in common? They all have ties to Phelps County!

Private First Class Floyd K. Lindstrom, was born on June 21, 1912 in Holdrege, Nebraska, to Otto and Anna (Sponberg) Lindstrom. Around 1915, Anna moved away from Otto with her two young children, Pauline aged 6 and Floyd, aged 3. They moved to Colorado Springs where she found work and raised her children. Floyd graduated from Cheyenne Mountain High School in 1931. He then got a job as a truck driver doing long hauls back and forth from Colorado to California. Floyd enlisted into the



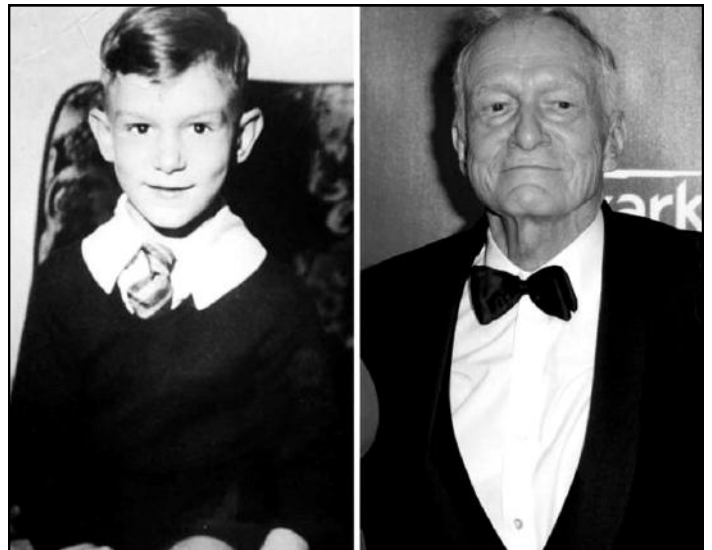
PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom

U.S. Army on June 22, 1942. He was assigned to H Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry (the "Cotton Balers") 3rd ID. He earned a Silver Star shortly after landing in Sicily. After Sicily, the 3rd ID moved onto Italy.

On November 11, 1943, Floyd Lindstrom's spectacular action and machine gun fire during heavy fighting, completely demoralized the Germans and their counter-attack.

Floyd was a machine gunner, and seeing his men needing help, he single handedly moved his 125 pound gun up an incline for better view and then proceeded to give his men cover. Later, armed only with a .45 caliber pistol, he charged a German machine gun in a mad, up-hill dash. Somehow he escaped being hit by the continuous chain of automatic fire from the enemy machine gun, got right on top of the gunners and shot them with his pistol. He then returned downhill, dragging the German machine gun behind him and then went back again and returned with two full boxes of ammunition, all the while

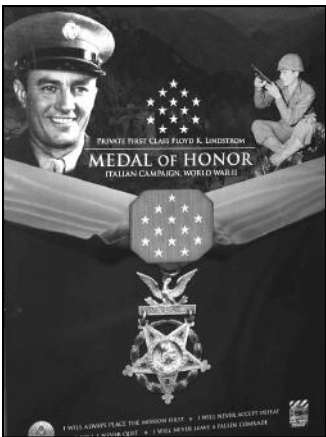
under heavy enemy attack. Later, that same day on November 11, 1943, he was killed in action near Mignano, Italy. For his gallantry and courage, at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, Private First Class Lindstrom was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was the first "Cotton Baler" to win this distinguished award in the Second World War. Floyd's family is still quite proud of his courageous military service. Several relatives still live here in Phelps County, one of which is his cousin, Larry Lindstrom.



Undated photos of Hugh Hefner

Hugh Hefner's connections to Phelps County have been well documented, especially since his passing on September 27, 2017 at his Playboy Mansion located in Los Angeles, California at the of 91 years. Hugh was the oldest of two sons born to Glenn L. and Grace C. (Swanson) Hefner. Both of Hugh's parents were Phelps County natives. His father was born in a sod house near Atlanta, Nebraska. His mother, Grace was born in Westmark Township in Phelps County, Nebraska. Grace

(Connections Continued on page 3)



*(Connections Continued from page 2)*

was one of five children born to Frank and Ida (Charleston) Swanson.

In 1900, the Frank Swanson family moved near Loomis, Nebraska and Grace attended school there. In 1908, the Swanson family moved to Holdrege, Nebraska, where Grace's father, Frank became a partner of C.S. Nelson (the furniture/undertaker firm located in downtown Holdrege). Glenn and Grace Hefner were married in 1921 and lived in Chicago, Illinois. One of Grace's sisters was Irene Swanson. Irene married Emil Spongberg,

and they had a daughter, Mae. Mae Spongberg grew up and married Robert McClymont. Mae still lives in Holdrege and relates the story of staying with her Aunt Grace (Swanson) Hefner's family while attending Cook County School of Nursing in Chicago, Illinois. Mae (Spongberg) McClymont and Hugh Hefner were first cousins and their Swanson grandparents are buried in the Prairie Home Cemetery at Holdrege, Phelps County, Nebraska.

Side Note: Now here's an odd connection: War hero, Floyd Lindstrom's mother, Anna (Spongberg) Lindstrom's brother is Emil Spongberg. Emil Spongberg is Mae (Spongberg) McClymont's father. So in a nutshell, Mae McClymont is first cousins to both Hugh Hefner and Floyd Lindstrom.

Here's yet another Phelps County connection. In 1867, French artist, Claude Monet was in great need of money and a wealthy friend and patron, Louis-Joachim Gaudibert, a ship owner, commissioned the famous artist to paint three portraits. Two were to be of Gaudibert himself and the third one of his wife, Madame Louis-Joachim Gaudibert. Monet did not usually do portraits, but he did need the money. The full-length portrait Monet finished in 1868 of Madame Gaudibert is well known, as it illustrates just how easily Monet was able to turn his hand to official portraiture. The woman's elegant posture lives up to the idealized concept of formal portraiture existing at that time. What was unusual, was the fact that the subject



*Madame Gaudibert  
Painted by Claude Monet in 1868*

of the portrait had averted her head. No one knows what happened to the other two Gaudibert family paintings.

So what is the Phelps County connection you ask? Well, it's Louis-Joachim and Madame Gaudibert's great-granddaughter, Clotilde Marie "Nina" (Gaudibert) Rutler.

Nina Gaudibert was born on May 18, 1929 in Manhattan, New York, the only child born to Antonine Joseph and Antoinette Josephine (Wurtzel) Gaudibert. Nina Gaudibert's mother, Antoinette Wurtzel was single when she immigrated to America from France in 1911 on the ship, La Provence. Also immigrating on the same ship was the Rutler family. During the long voyage, the Wurtzel and the Rutler families became friends.

After arriving in the United States, Antoinette Wurtzel married Antonine Gaudibert. They settled in the Bronx, and the Rutlers settled in New Jersey. The two families kept contact, and then in 1946, Nina Gaudibert and Paul Rutler were married. To this union one son was born, Robert Antoine Rutler. Paul and Nina made their home in Patterson, New Jersey for several years. Then, in 1988, the family moved to Oxford, Nebraska to be close to Paul Rutler's sister, Yvonne (Rutler) Bunnell who had previously married and moved to Nebraska. After Nina's husband, Paul died in 2014, she began to make her home in Holdrege.

Nina's sister-in-law, Yvonne (Rutler) Bunnell remembers that Nina had the opportunity to visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art when the Monet exhibit was there and saw her great-grandmother's painting. Yvonne knew that this was before they moved to Oxford in 1988.

In doing a quick look on Google, I found that between June 20, 1987 and August 30, 1987, the Philadelphia Museum exhibited 30 Monet paintings from both the Museum and Private collectors. The Madame Gaudibert painting was among those shown.

So there you have it. Three seemingly unrelated people, all with Phelps County ties.

Never know what stories you might find digging around in the Genealogy Library at the Nebraska Prairie Museum.

—end



*Clotilde Marie "Nina"  
(Gaudibert) Rutler 1929 - 2017*

## The Holdrege Amusement Park

By Susan Perry

In the spring of 1920, there was much excitement building throughout the town as the opening date for the amusement park neared. Three gentlemen had purchased an old timber claim (15 acres), one mile west of Burlington Street and Fourth Avenue and had developed this part for the enjoyment of people far and near. There were facilities for overnight camping and these were being highly advertised as a splendid place to stop on the way to Denver from Lincoln. The highlight of the park was a dance pavilion in the middle of all the activities. This pavilion had a 5,050 square foot good maple floor, and the ads were already running proclaiming when the first bevy of dances would be coming. Nearby there were many shade trees to provide coolness as one sipped soft drinks or ate lunch near the refreshment stand. There were seats provided for watching the activities or supervising the kiddies on the swings. The owners hoped to "provide every comfort" to visitors to the park. At the north end, the cement swimming pool was not finished for the grand opening, but opened by the first of July.

The park was officially opened with the U.C.T. Annual Ball. Later in the summer, the Elks Lodge of Kearney, brought about 60 couples to join several Elks couples from Holdrege and other invited guests, for a dancing party in the pavilion. Dancing began at 9:00 and music was furnished by the Central Rag-A-Jazz orchestra of Kearney. It was "pronounced by all as being the best music of its kind in Holdrege for some time." Around the Fourth of July, a picnic for the general public, which would be held at the amusement park, was advertised. On that occasion, there would be dancing, both afternoon and evening by the Alvins Novelty Orchestra, whose motto was "Once Heard, Never Forgotten." There would be a few contests, stunts, races, etc., to add to the fun of the day. It was suggested that everyone bring their own lunch baskets.

**PICNIC**  
For the General Public  
**Mon. July 5th**  
Holdrege, Nebraska  
at the  
**Holdrege Amusement Park**  
Bring your Lunch Baskets  
Gun Club will give Big Shoot that Day  
There will be a few contests, stunts, races etc.,  
promoted by the crowd.  
**Dance at Pavilion**  
Afternoon and evening  
Alvins Novelty Orchestra  
Once Heard, Never forgotten

Another part of the park was a gun club, which had built their building on the grounds. Throughout the summer, shoots were held and on that big July celebration, they featured a BIG SHOOT.

In June, a wrestling match, which the papers claimed, "is attracting considerable attention" was brought to the park as the feature of the evening. The opening event was a six-round boxing exhibition between Peterson and Hoppe.

In August, the Fourth Annual Tractor Show (which was expected to attract thousands) came to the park for three days of oratory, demonstrations in the surrounding fields, and introducing the latest machinery the various companies had on exhibition. These were housed in large tents that had been leased for the event. Some of the demonstrations would show the "various uses a tractor may be put to in the smaller chores about the place, such as churning, pumping water, sawing wood and various other uses." Each day of the show, pilot Curtis Friday would stage a flight for those attending the show. The airfield was to open to visitors and "passengers would be carried at any time."

The concession stand was geared to provide hot and cold lunches and soft drinks, but *never* before had Holdrege had a barbecue! Much was written about this free meal, where an ox was roasted and sandwiches prepared from the meat. And if tractors didn't really interest the wives and children, there was "a first class merry-go-round, large Ferris Wheel, etc." plus all

**Fifth Annual Ball**  
GIVEN BY  
**UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS**  
of America, at  
**The Holdrege Amusement Park**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1921**  
This will be the Opening Dance at the Amusement Park  
General admission—\$1.00 plus tax. Ladies—War tax.  
Everybody Invited  
Six-Piece Orchestra

(Amusement Park Continued on page 5)

*(Amusement Park Continued from page 4)*

those seats under the shade trees. Each evening there were dances at the pavilion.

The first season wrapped up with a September 21 dance, with music provided by the Rocky Mountain Jazz Orchestra.

The second year's events again opened with the U.C.T. Annual Ball with music provided by a six piece orchestra. "A large number of dancers were present and everyone seemed to be having the time of their lives."

Most of the articles from 1921 were stories about gun club shoots. There was a special blue rock shoot on the Fourth of July, and merchants were offering prizes amounting to over \$100. Families were invited to attend and bring their picnic lunches to enjoy a real Fourth of July celebration. Sponsors of the day were urging ladies to enter Ladies' events. They suggested that, "It is recognized that as soon as a woman

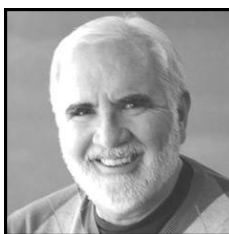
becomes used to the use of a gun, they become more proficient than the average male shooter. There are already several women entrants for this shoot and the club hopes to swell the number considerably." These shoots continued throughout the summer season.

Now I am wondering: What happened to that cement swimming pool? To the pavilion? What happened to the gun club? That one we can all answer. There it sits on the corner one mile west of Burlington Street and Fourth Avenue.

If you have some photos or knowledge about what happened to the Holdrege Amusement Park, please give the Nebraska Prairie Museum a call at 995-5015.

—end

## Executive Director Update



*Dan Christensen,  
Executive Director*

Refurbishing is refreshing at the Nebraska Prairie Museum. The Anderson farm house has had its pantry ceiling and walls repaired and repainted, with the pantry dishes, pots and pans freshened up and arranged. The porches and steps are in the process of being scraped and repainted and all the windows are going to be replaced. It will be a brand new old house. Speaking of brand new and old, the 1948 Indian motorcycle with zero miles since the restoration is showing off in the Schrock addition, and a new old 1942 Ford sits in front of the POW Interpretive center, reminding us that 1942 is when the Atlanta POW camp was finally relieved of duty, sending thousands of POW's back to Germany and Italy.

Fall is here, and by the time you get this newsletter, the annual Antique Harvest at the Prairie Museum will have probably taken place. Food and fun are on schedule along with new displays and a loom demonstration.

Christmas time at the museum will include Jan Weich's Belles ringing Christmas Bells. Beautiful Bell Choir music will fill the air at the Prairie Museum on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

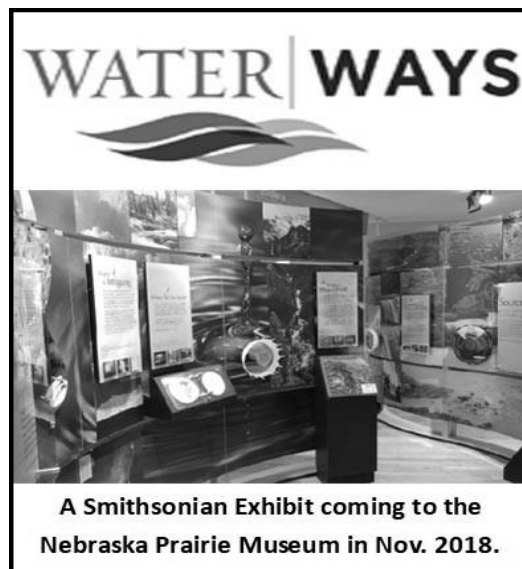
The Children's Museum, a traveling interactive display celebrating Nebraska's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, entertained and educated children on our Museum campus from all over Phelps and surrounding counties September 21st and 22nd. The display, brought to us through a grant from Humanities Nebraska, was

at the museum for two days, and was a smashing success! One day featured the partial solar eclipse - that was great accidental planning!

More great things are coming to the Nebraska Prairie Museum. The train given to us by Dr. Tom Smith is making progress as it chugs its way to a new display in the Town Square. We're looking for all types of volunteers including engineers. Volunteers with skills in electrical wiring, electronics, carpentry and model building are especially needed, but anyone age 12 or older who wants to build and run a model railroad is welcome!

Keep your eye on our Facebook page (Nebraska Prairie Museum) and our web site ([nebraskaprairie.org](http://nebraskaprairie.org)) and come out and enjoy a day at the museum.

—end



**A Smithsonian Exhibit coming to the  
Nebraska Prairie Museum in Nov. 2018.**

## Digitizing of Swedish Church Records has been Completed

By Sandra Slater

Sven Hennig, who works for ArkivDigital of Sweden, arrived on August 7, 2017 and spent five weeks here in Phelps County, Nebraska digitizing old church records with a Swedish connection.

In the early days of Phelps County, about 80 percent of settlers were Swedish. Our research located twenty-three congregations with Swedish connections that were digitized: seventeen were located here in Phelps County; three in Kearney County; two in Dawson County; and one in Harlan County, Nebraska. In addition, early Christian Children's home newsletters were also located at Christian Homes and digitized. Almost all of these early newsletters were written in Swedish.

Five of these old church records were from churches that have been closed for years and their records are housed here at the Nebraska Prairie Museum.

This was a very interesting and rewarding project. We thank all the church representatives who helped make this project possible. Several of these churches located records that they themselves, did not even know they had.

When visiting the Keene Evangelical Church in Kearney County, their history records revealed that in 1880, Fredrik Franson had organized the Church of God congregations of not only Keene, but also at Holcomb, Phelps Center, Westmark and Industry churches in Phelps County, Nebraska.



*Pictured on the left is Sven Hennig, from Sweden who is digitizing the records, Lenora Lynam who came from Lindsborg, Kansas to assist us on our first day and standing is Museum volunteer, Sandra Slater.*

Then when visiting the Evangelical Free Church in Gothenburg, Nebraska, a 1919 Swedish minister's book was digitized and in it I found information on two ministers who served the Phelps Center Church here in Phelps County. What a great surprise!

The Holdrege Area Genealogy Club sponsored this project in coordination with Old Mill Museum at Lindsborg, Kansas. Each church that participated in this project will receive a digitized copy of their records for their own use.

For more information, please contact Sandra Slater at the Nebraska Prairie Museum.

—end



*Sven Hennig is on the left, showing Dan Christensen the ArkivDigital web site on the internet in Sweden.*

Like this copy of  
The Stereoscope Newsletter?  
Become a member of the  
Phelps County Historical Society  
and get all issues of this quarterly  
publication delivered to your door.

NEBRASKA  
PRAIRIE  
MUSEUM  
OF THE PHELPS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STEREOSCOPE

October 21, 2017

Antique Fall Harvest Photos

—Courtesy of our own Dan Christensen



## Harvest Time Was Tougher in 1920s

Originally written in 1976

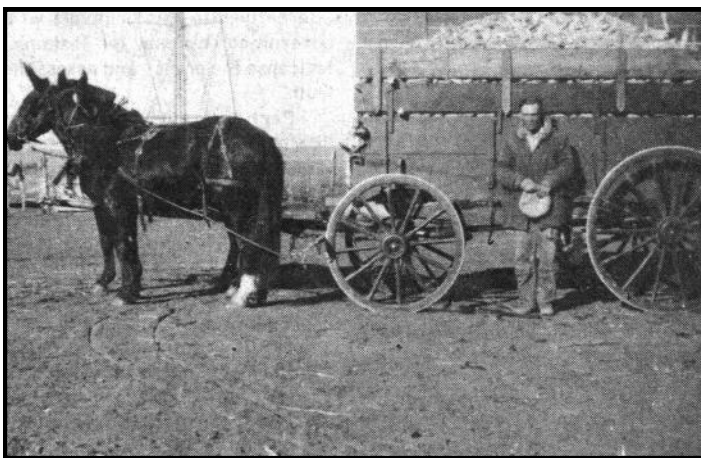
by Lorena Smith

Farmers are in the fields. Tall brown stalks of corn standing thick and heavy with ears, are being swallowed up whole by monstrous machines which start traversing the fields early in the morning and continue until late in the evening with an electric eye showing the way down the rows.

Over fifty years ago, it was the farmer himself who tried to keep his own eyes open about five o'clock in the morning when he went out to hitch his horses to the lumber wagon, preparatory to harvesting his corn crop. But the season for picking started closer to Nov. 1st then, and they called the process, "corn-husking."

In that procedure, a man put bang-boards on one side of the wagon and walked up and down the rows of corn, alongside of the team and wagon, stooping to pick each ear of corn from the stalks, removing the shuck with a hook fastened to the inside of his mittened hand with a strap, and tossing the golden ears into the wagon box as fast as his personal dexterity permitted. The bang-boards were meant to stop the ears from going over the other side. Cold temperatures made the corn snap easier and snow on the ground was no deterrent—the man wore long underwear and an extra shirt.

Corn husking contests became popular in the 1930's, and contestants met in local, state, and national competitions to see who could pick the most corn, minus shucks, in 80 minutes.



**CORN-PICKER** — Back in 1929, Wallace Peterson hired out as a corn-picker. In this picture he was driving a team composed of a mule and horse, sometimes a necessary combination made to induce the mule to "keep moving." Two extra side boards have been added to the wagon to support the load of ear corn, plus an extra high bang-board on the right side of the wagon.

Each husker was allowed a driver for the team in the contest so as to have as little distraction as possible.

Most teams of horses, however, on the farms, in familiar home fields, understood their master's word signals well enough to move on and stop in unison with the corn-pickers movements, so they did not have to be controlled by a driver or handling of the lines.

Some horses knew by experience, that when the farmer had picked his rows up to a point in which he was even with the hitching tree of the wagon, they were expected to move on several feet ahead until the farmer was left at the back end of the wagon and the process of stooping and banging was repeated, until the farmer again was even with the rumps of the animals.

Not a word had to be spoken, and by some mysterious inner knowledge, most horses knew when it was time for the mid-day meal and automatically headed for the barn, whether the farmer was ready to go at that time or not.

If the team was composed of mules the farmer knew it was impossible to stop them, so there was nothing to do but climb aboard and go on home with them. As soon as they were unhitched they trotted to the water tank for a good drink and back to the barn for their noon rations, and rest.

To many of the county farmers, this silent but understanding communication between man and draft animal remains as a very pleasant memory, and an experience which the younger generation may never feel.

In 1921, a local newspaper reported that six boys husked in the same field at the George Nelson farm, located between Holdrege and Loomis. The contest was scheduled in January, on a Saturday, promoted perhaps by the fathers to get some extra work out of their sons. Making a game of the required work created more interest. The boys were cousins.

"Verne and Raymond Thorell worked at one wagon. They husked 80 bushels," the newspaper reports. "The George Nelson boys, Reuben and Norbert, 13 years old, husked 65 bushels..."

About this same time eggs were 17 cents a dozen, a large loaf of bread cost 15 cents and Wyoming potatoes (bought off the track) were \$1.40 bushel. If mother was still washing by hand, she could purchase a brass wash board for 98 cents. Jap Rose or Peroxide soap washed the family faces at the rate of 12 bars for a dollar. Father felt he had spent money on a luxury when he paid \$12 for an all-cotton mattress. In March of 1921, his corn was worth 30 cents a bushel; in April two cents less.

Husking mitts were a necessary purchase during corn-

*(Corn Husking Continued on page 9)*

*(Corn Husking Continued from page 8)*

picking time. Advertisements proclaimed that good reliable husking mitts cost \$2.25 a dozen, and that a dozen pairs would pick about 1,200 bushels of corn.

Wages, at the price of 5 cents a bushel for good huskers, included room and board, in 1923.

By 1929, corn was selling at between 75 cents and 80 cents a bushel and hired corn huskers were receiving four cents a bushel for their labor. Five years later, corn brought only eight cents a bushel, and the hired man was paid only one cent a

bushel for picking it. The better pickers were able to bring in about 100 bushels of corn a day.

Those were the days that made popular the axiom, "Another day—another dollar."

—end



## AAA Glidden Antique Car Tour

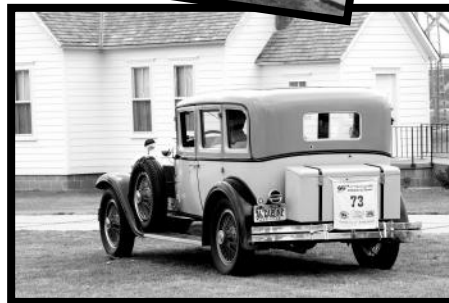
*By Patti Simpson*

*Photos courtesy of Dan Christensen*

The AAA Glidden Antique Auto Tour made their scheduled stop at the Nebraska Prairie Museum on Monday, September 18th. The tour included over 248 beautifully restored antique automobiles built between 1910 and 1942, with car owners from California to New York. The group congregated in Hastings, Nebraska and from there they began their tour of south central Nebraska. One couple, Raymond and Sammye Harrill of Little Rock, Arkansas are avid history buffs. Raymond was quoted in the Hastings Tribune as thoroughly enjoying visiting the home of Willa Cather on Tuesday, along with several other older buildings in Red Cloud. The Nebraska Prairie Museum in Holdrege was equally memorable, he said.

"I've been to other prairie museums in other states, but this one was the best kept and best displayed that we've seen," he said. "I love to learn, to soak it in, and then put it into context to where it was when I studied it in high school years ago. It's really interesting." What a great compliment for our museum from someone who has traveled this country far and wide!

—end



**Phelps County  
Historical Society  
Memorials & Honorariums  
July 2, 2017 - October 6, 2017**

In Memory Of Lona Stolz

Bill & Susan Perry  
Rodger & Marilyn Lien

In Memory Of Don Lindstrom

Keith & Donna Lindgren

In Memory Of Don Thorell

Robert & Antoinette Williams

In Memory Of Jim Van Marter

Rodger & Marilyn Lien  
Lemoyne & Phyllis Exstrom

In Memory Of Larileen Lindstrom

Rodger & Marilyn Lien  
HHS Class of 1952

In Memory Of Jay Lilyhorn

Bruce Hendrickson  
Earl & Carolyn Carlson

In Memory Of Wilbur Black

Dr. Thomas & Shirley Smith  
Raymond Winquest Family  
Keith & Glenda Nelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Winz

John Boehler  
John & Patty Abrahamson

Bob King  
Mary Anna Anderson  
Richard & Julie Jeffery  
H.W. & Marian Sandell

Linda Crandall  
Thomas Hilsabeck  
Tim & Paula Moomey  
Arlene Mintzmyer  
Don & Phyllis Bergstrom  
RoDale & Renate Emken  
Hildreth Volunteer Fire Dept  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Beckman  
D. & Denise Gustafson

In Memory Of Donald Swanson

Dennis & Susan Fulk

In Memory Of Jeff & LaVale Allard

Lorraine Allard

In Memory Of Patricia Rawson

Dennis & Susan Fulk

In Memory Of Rodney Kirkpatrick

Kerry & Marlene Blythe

In Memory Of Virginia Harms

RoDale & Renate Emken

In Honor Of Warner & Janice  
Carlson

John & Valene Carlson  
In Honor Of John & Valene Carlson  
Warner & Janice Carlson

**Phelps County  
Community Foundation  
Memorials & Honorariums**

In Memory Of Jay Lilyhorn

Mr. & Mrs. Russ Nedrig

In Memory Of Wilbur Black

Mr. & Mrs. Dale Sall  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Malm

In Memory Of Kenneth F. Mosman

Douglas & Patti Simpson

**Thank you for  
remembering your  
loved ones through a  
memorial to the  
Phelps County  
Historical Society.**

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## Phelps County Saddle Clubs

*by Patti Simpson*

Over a year ago, Vickie Westcott began searching for some information on the Sodbuster Saddle Club. Vickie's father, Paul Erickson, had been a member of the club, and Vickie wanted to preserve its history.

After looking through many old newspapers and contacting many people in the area, Vickie still could not locate much information. What we have found out is the following.

Back in the 1950s, through sometime in the 1970s, there were several groups of horse loving people who formed clubs including the Sodbuster Saddle Club and the Bertrand Saddle Club here in Phelps County. Over the years, there were several active members. In asking around, several names were given as possible Saddle Club members including: Chuck Johnson, Roger Lien, Wesley Sandstedt, Wayne Lofquist, Paul Erickson, Lloyd Erickson, Ron Lyon, Howard Swanson, Lyle Heckenlively and Hop Olson to name a few. Both the

Bertrand and Sodbuster clubs were known to have performed at local rodeos. They also had several outings or picnics.

Phelps County Historical Society member, Ann Heckenlively related a story she heard of that happened around 1967. It seemed the Sodbuster Club was on their way to Rock Falls for a picnic. Member, Hop Olson was recovering from an injury and was unable to ride a horse at that time. So, the group got a wagon, loaded it with hay bales and set a rocking chair on top, where Hop rode to Rock Falls. Now wouldn't it be cool to find a photo of that?

Unfortunately, many of the older members are no longer with us and the history of these clubs is being lost. If you know something about the Bertrand Saddle Club or the Sodbuster Saddle Club histories, please give the Nebraska Prairie Museum Library a call. We would love to record your stories and photos so the history of the saddle clubs can be preserved for future generations.

—end





## 2017 Give2GROW

On Thursday, November 16, 2017, the Phelps County Historical Society will again participate in the Give2GROW - Phelps County Match Day hosted by the Phelps County Community Foundation. Give2GROW is a county-wide giving challenge designed to raise dollars for local nonprofit organizations like the Phelps County Historical Society. During this one-day event, donations can be made to the Phelps County Historical Society and every contribution will grow when they receive a pro-rated share of the matching pool of funds provided by generous donors and the Phelps County Community Foundation.

The Nebraska Prairie Museum, operated by the Phelps County Historical Society, is a huge asset to the community. With over 9,000 visitors annually, the Nebraska Prairie Museum is a favorite stop for adults and children alike.

Please support the Phelps County Historical Society during Give2GROW. Your support is vital to keeping the Nebraska Prairie Museum one of the best museums in the state. Museum and Genealogy Club Memberships can also be renewed through Give2GROW.

Give2GROW will be held from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, November 16. Credit/Debit card donations are welcomed and can be made anytime online at the NEW WEB ADDRESS: [give2growphelps.org](http://give2growphelps.org)

Offline contributions of personal checks will also be accepted at the Phelps County Community Foundation office from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on November 16th. Checks should be dated November 16, 2017 and be made payable to the Phelps County Community Foundation.

Last year the Museum  
raised over \$37,000  
during Give2GROW!



**PHELPS COUNTY MATCH DAY**

# All Aboard!!! The Nebraska Prairie Museum is building a railroad!



Thanks to a generous donation by Dr. Tom Smith, we have money and rolling stock (G Gauge). The Nebraska Prairie Museum is providing the space. Now we need volunteers to help develop a plan, build a layout and operate the trains.

Volunteers with skills in electrical wiring, electronics, carpentry and model building are especially needed, but anyone age 12 or older who wants to build and run a model railroad is welcome.

An organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2, at 7:00 pm at the Nebraska Prairie Museum.

**Please plan to attend and bring a friend!**



Please join us on  
**Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017**  
at **7:30 p.m.**  
at the  
**Nebraska Prairie  
Museum**  
**For our Quarterly  
Meeting Program.**

**Sandra Slater will present her  
program on Plum Creek**

**We will also honor the late  
Ken Mosman for his contributions to the  
Don O. Lindgren Genealogy Library and  
the Nebraska Prairie Museum.**

**Public is welcome!  
Refreshments will be served.**



P.O. BOX 164

HOLDREGE, NEBRASKA 68949

PHELPS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bob Butz, President	Nancy Morse, Vice President	
Patti Simpson, Secretary	Dick Anderson	
Warner Carlson	Sonya Dannehl	Mike Ecklun
John Kogl	Larry Lindstrom	John Thorburn
Bob Vandell	Toni Williams	
Eileen Schrock, Dir. Emeritus		

STAFF:

Dan Christensen, Executive Director  
 Emily vanDyk, Executive Assistant  
 Lana Nickolan & Sandy Swallberg, Front Desk  
 Jim Englund, Maintenance Superintendent  
 Sharon Johnson, Custodian  
 Sandra Slater, Genealogy Library Director  
 Patti Simpson, Stereoscope Editor

FALL & WINTER HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM

Saturday - Sunday, 1 PM to 4 PM

PHONE: 308-995-5015

WEB PAGE: [www.nebraskaprairie.org](http://www.nebraskaprairie.org)

FACEBOOK: Nebraska Prairie Museum

Please support the  
 Nebraska Prairie Museum  
 by becoming a member of the  
 Phelps County Historical Society!

\$20 = Individual Membership

\$30 = Family Membership

\$100 = Business Membership

\$1,000 = Individual Lifetime Membership

Have you considered a Lifetime Membership?

NOW's THE TIME!

Make your membership dollars go even further  
 by paying through the  
 Give2GROW Campaign on November 16th.

Please check out our  
 NEW Give2GROW website:  
[give2growphelps.org](http://give2growphelps.org)

Your Give2GROW membership and donations  
 to the Phelps County Historical Society  
 will be used to help support the continued mission of the  
 Nebraska Prairie Museum.

All Donations are  
 Tax Deductible and Appreciated!



PLEASE JOIN US ON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017 — FROM 9 A.M. TO 11 A.M.

DURING COFFEE AM AT THE NEBRASKA PRAIRIE MUSEUM FOR THE PHELPS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AS WE HONOR OUR AREA VETERANS!

FREE HOT BREAKFAST PROVIDED FOR ALL.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

